

**IF YOU KNEW WHO YOU WERE
YOU WOULD ACT ACCORDINGLY...**

POWERFUL

SOMEONE

**Grow In You
&
Unlock Your Purpose**

BRIGITTE BROWN JACKSON

POWERFUL: GROW IN YOU & UNLOCK YOUR PURPOSE

POWERFUL

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Brigitte Brown Jackson



Powerful: Grow in You & Unlock Your Purpose
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DEDICATION

To Fannie Mae Clark
who's resiliency and fortitude
was an example and foundation for my powerful life.

CONTENTS

	Introduction	
1	My Purpose Will Not Be Thwarted Power Pillar 1 – Purpose	Pg 1
2	See It Before You See It Power Pillar 2 – Perception	Pg 29
3	A Principle Isn't a Principle Until It Cost You Something Power Pillar 3 – Principles	Pg 51
4	First Things First, Less Not More Power Pillar 4 - Priorities	Pg 83
5	Never Throw in the Towel Power Pillar 5 – Perseverance	Pg 103
6	Get It Done! Power Pillar 6 -Productiveness	Pg 125
7	An Expanded Mind Will Never Go Back to Its Origin Power Pillar 7 -Personal Growth	Pg 139
	Special Section – Ready. Set. Action	Pg 159
	Acknowledgments	Pg 162
	Notes	Pg 164

Introduction

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:16

“Who is going to want me with four kids?”

“Who is going to want me with four kids?”

You do see double. But, no, I did not mistakenly repeat myself. Those were the actual words spoken by two different individuals in two other cities, living two different lives. They were virtually worlds apart, but fate would soon bring them together and silence the negative thinking in their heads.

It all began in a 5:00 am prayer meeting as I stretched out prostrate before God, seeking divine direction.

I questioned Him about the course my life had taken. I didn't understand why I had to endure the disappointment and pain of a broken marriage. “Why God? Why divorce? Why was my good life disrupted?”

“Brigitte...Brigitte...Brigitte”...

I looked around to see who had called my name and noticed that all the congregants were immersed in prayer. Then, I instantly realized it was Him. I had never experienced an utterance from the Master—I was speechless—the manifestation of God in an audible revelation is so profound. He continued speaking and revealed His plan to send me a covenant mate. He said: “I will give you a husband that will love you like I love the church.”

Then as I praised Him, he showed me the most magnificent vision. I watched myself as if I were watching a video on YouTube. I was standing on the sandy beach on a beautifully sunny but partially hazy day in front of a man in a black tuxedo. I was adorned in a beautiful white gown with my train gently grazing the outdoor altar. My smile was as radiant as the sun in the sky protruding over the beautiful bluish-green ocean.

In 2009 that vision became a reality, and I married my soulmate on the pristine shore of the Atlantic Ocean in Miami, Florida. He and I uttered the words described above to ourselves just years prior. “Who would want me?” The fixed mindset bug had bitten us both. Our lips expressed what our hearts were

thinking. We had been divorced for some years, and neither of us wanted our families shattered. But it happened.

We did not know each other, but we perceived ourselves as damaged goods. It appeared that we each were unwanted. But not so. We had a divine ordained appointment with each other. Ordained is a powerful word. However, you do not hear it often, but it merely means to order or decree something officially. It was official; we were being groomed to grow in ourselves and unlock our purposes as individuals to prepare for one another within the six years.

Singlehood was not my desire, but when I became a divorcee, I had to reteach myself to love myself, to expand, and see myself as God saw me – powerful.

A few months after the vision, my professional development as a school administrator began. I was academically trained in the fundamentals of leadership while cultivating a new me. I took psychometric assessments, my organization paid for me a one-on-one coach, and I sat at the feet of the best masterminds in education. I was growing in myself and unlocking my purpose. I never really realized how much that past growth was also preparing me to dominate the business market that I stand in today as an entrepreneur and my valued marriage—preparing me to enjoy this current bliss with my king of 12 years.

My self-awareness had been sharpened. I could now show others the power within. Previously, powerlessness was affecting my professional life, love life, parenting, and my very existence. But I was a magnet, and I could attract power and repel powerlessness. My self-awareness began on a journey in search of finding me, the authentic and unique Brigitte.

And now I sit and help others self-discover their perfect selves – their genius. Sometimes, I am asked to elaborate on what I mean when I say I help people with their self-awareness. I help people possess a conscious knowledge of one's own, temperament, motives, desires, and most of all - one's feelings. When it comes to self-familiarity, I recognize three types of people in the world: the unaware, the aware but undeveloped, and the very aware. Are you the latter? Are you highly knowledgeable about your behavior tendencies, values, passions, and purpose?

INTRODUCTION

I hope that everyone is the latter. Purpose-driven people have high levels of consciousness. My desire is to compel you to resonate on whichever state you are in, to use your metacognition – think about your thinking and grow.

I penned this book to share my experiences with pain and the perseverance to overcome tribulations. I had to learn to build myself up and expose my divine destiny and the super talents that would get me there. In the words of Zig Ziglar, you were born to win, but to be a winner, you must plan to win, prepare to win, and expect to win.

The Seven Power Pillars is the vehicle to help you win and take your life to a new level. At the end of each chapter, there is a review with power thoughts and action steps to help you move your needle of success one step at a time. Using the suggested strategies and techniques, you can achieve more in 90 days than most people do in a year or years, for that matter. Intentionality is one of the key drivers, and so are your beliefs. Believe and avoid the imposter syndrome. I know who you are. You know who you are – You Are Powerful. So, act accordingly.

I believe since you purchased this book, it is no secret that you are ordained to do what God called you to do. Your heart brought you to your calling. Your purpose is exclusive of your vocation. Your job, career, or business is great, but living in your authentic ordained purpose is your true birthright.

In *Powerful: Grow In You & Unlock Your Purpose*, I help shed light on the power of your purpose and inspire you to stay on the path that God placed you on. I desire for you to increase your soul man's capacity - will, intellect, memory, imagination, and emotions. I want you to strengthen those feelings and become more emotionally intelligent. Be self-aware.

As an educator for almost three decades, impacting the lives of thousands of young people, I cannot tell you how many times I faced obstacles, hurts, traumatic episodes, and setbacks that made me want to throw in the towel. No matter how satisfied I felt, the numerous accolades or awards I received, or the beautiful children and families that brought joy and satisfaction to my days, I would get winded and go through bouts of doubt. I wondered should I continue my course. I questioned was I doing the right thing. The mountain seemed unattainable on many

days. But there was always something on the inside that made me forge through.

One day that epiphany came to light; that gut feeling was my divine calling. Breathing and occupying space is not my plight - I was called for action. I began my journey as an “experiencer,” not just an influencer. Now I consider myself ordained to educate beyond walls because being present, inspiring, and enthusiastically teaching is what I do. It is the essence of my being. I could not run away from it if I wanted to. Build, encourage, effect, and impact are my natural calling.

A long time ago, I took a survey to be more purpose-driven in my life and ministry. That was when I stumbled upon Don and Katie Fortune’s book, *Discover Your God-Given Gifts*. The Fortunes highlight seven God-given abilities – teacher, perceiver, exhorter, administrator, compassion person, giver, and server. Every time I have taken the giftedness questionnaire over several decades, I have always had compassion person and teacher show up as my top two God-given abilities.

This tool opened my eyes to every assignment I have held, every organization that I have worked for, and volunteerism assignments I have performed. With my gift of compassion, I have been a devoted person, lovable, and sensitive to others. As a God-gifted teacher, my life has focused on intellectual pursuits. Through this lens of perfected purpose, I see my life’s impression.

In the book, *Start With Why, How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone To Take Action*, Simon Sinek says, “Those who are able to inspire give people a sense of purpose or belonging that has little to do with any external incentive or benefit to be gained.” I started with my WHY, which was to help others, which led to leading others. Now it is developing and coaching others in empowering behaviors.

My why leads me to transform. So, I am aspiring to inspire through various mediums of communication and literature. This book is the first of seven books in the series, *Ordained for It*.

Your Partner in Success – Brigitte

Lightning is powerful. We can learn so many lessons from the power it presents. According to Britannica.com, the definition of lightning is the visible discharge of electricity that occurs when a region of a cloud acquires an excess electrical charge, either positive or negative, that is sufficient to break down the resistance of air. Like lightning, each of us has an electrical charge that can break down resistance. You are powerful. You have amazing energy within you that allows you to work out the life challenge you were uniquely created to unravel and solve.

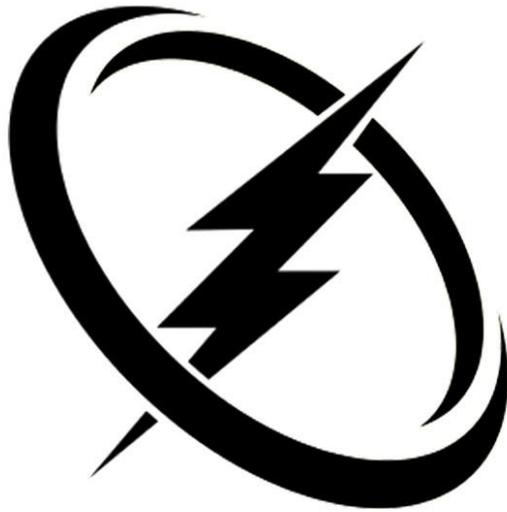
You are ordained to be yourself to the fullest! The Seven Power Pillars included in this book will help you stay focused and support the accomplishment of your life's dreams. Start executing with them now.

- Purpose
- Perception
- Principles
- Priorities
- Perseverance
- Productiveness
- Personal Growth

BRIGITTE BROWN JACKSON

CHAPTER 1

PURPOSE



Then Job replied to the LORD: “I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. Job 42:1-2

CHAPTER 1

MY PURPOSE WILL NOT BE THWARTED

Everyone has a distinctive and authentic purpose. I would argue that most people desire to exist and possess a vital drive with powerful outcomes in life. However, do we genuinely seek meaning at its total capacity? This ideal is something that I am quite capable of talking about with others. My inspiration was beacons by author Toni Morrison's profound words, "If there's a book you really want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." My desire to fulfill that call to action, along with my extraordinary experiences, drove me to write this book and share these seven poignant, powerful pillars.

COUNT THE COST

What does it cost you when you do not live in your purpose? What does it cost you when you are not truly 100 percent genuinely who you were designed to be? Like the book cover suggests, if you knew who you were, you would act accordingly and use a process or system to maintain the effectiveness.

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish...'

Luke 14:28-30 (English Standard Version)

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For me, that answer was hundreds of thousands of missed economic opportunities. And hundreds of thousands of lost connections. In addition to hundreds of hundreds of lost impact and unreturnable days. They are unredeemable. It cost something! Yes, it costs. I lacked walking in my divine purpose with power for years on end. But at the same time, everything worked out for my good. Here is my story, or at least part of it.

BRIGITTE BROWN JACKSON

I sat on the sofa one day with a bottle in my hand, shaking it repeatedly as the tiny objects made noises like a tambourine or maraca. Despair filled me with every fiber. It felt as if my life had bottomed out; I was sunken in a pit of darkness. I had no feelings of joy or no rope to hang my hope. Feelings of despair flooded my soul as I slumped into the cushions of the sofa and became one with them. Like a hawk, I eyed the bottle over and over, not knowing the more I looked, the more tempted I was to give in to the emotions that were overpowering me. The feelings were dominating. As I opened the bottle and dropped each object one-by-one down my throat, I sat thinking of the end.

Who would care?

Who would talk about me?

Who would come and attend the ceremony?

But then, there must have been a little hopefulness that was ignited within as I made what I thought would be my last phone call. It was to the person who was my best friend and brought me into this world. She must have sensed something about the intonation in my voice. Or maybe my word choice made her question because after I hung up the phone and unplugged it from the wall, I heard a THUMP! (Yes, we still had phones that plugged into the wall). I heard another THUMP! My disconnecting the phone did not stop that motherly instinct to know that something had gone amiss. She drove across town; I imagine, probably speeding and running every red light possible. All I knew was she was at the door of my home, and my stepfather's

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size 13 shoe was kicking it in as I laid on the sofa talking in gibberish. She and my stepfather rushed me to the hospital to figure out what I had done. They were inquiring, what happened and how would it affect my health and my future?

Well, you must understand, my anguish led me to not wanting to live, but I guess wanting to live. Yes, that is a very confusing oxymoron. I gave in to a bit of flicker of fear; I gave in but did not give in all the way. Help had arrived, my purpose was not ended. It was not dissolved. It was not thwarted.

PERSONAL REVOLUTION

Maybe you think since this is the first chapter, I would have started this discussion on purpose by first including all the great things about the topic of purpose. But I had to take you to where the incredible personal revolution began - my transformational metamorphosis. It started with that dark cocoon-enclosed day - pills in hand, I had no clarity of the greatness I would dim if I carried this act out.

International sports icon and track and field Olympic champion Wilma Rudolph once stated, “the potential for greatness lives within us all.” My greatness was there, even though I could not see it because I was in the larvae state of my life. While changing and starting the pupa stage, I caught a glimpse of the light when my mother flew through the door. There was a ray of brightness even in the darkness. Darkness becomes devoid when light appears - no matter how small the amount of

light. My darkness now comprised a beam of illumination to spark the small glimmer of my future self. My hope did have a rope. The rope had a name, and I called her mom.

METAMORPHOSIS

My metamorphosis began when I hit rock bottom -the most brutal blow I ever experienced in my life. The hopes and the dreams that this little girl, the little me had, had vanished and eroded like the rocks on the beach, year, after year, after year, because the friction of disappointment had broken it down. The times of self-doubt had taken their toll, and it was dating my disgust. That was not a good mixture.

Upon entering my second decade in life, things started changing and not for the better. My purpose waned by. I found myself living an abridged life and settling for experiences that were less than my capability. Less than my destiny. Less than the Almighty Master's desire for me. Yet, it still was all in God's hand.

Inadequacy filled my bones. Like a neon banner, I resonated in my heart and mind that I was purposed to be lower than low.

"There is no passion to be found playing small – in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living. "

-Nelson Mandela

These emotions provoked me, that was until I had an epiphany to be more significant. And not greater like most of you might think. But more extraordinary in the sense of understanding my clear essence. I am not referring to great in looking

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at things, materials, possessions, or any of those types of items that most people consider great. I am referring to my core. I refer to my pure essence as a spiritual being living in a body, possessing a soul: me.

I am the most important thing to God. You are the most important thing to God. And He wants us to live as our greatest selves, so we can do the will that He gave us — our Purpose.

In the words of the great and late poet laureate, Maya Angelou: “We delight in the beauty of the butterfly but rarely the changes.” I had literally lived as a caterpillar for too long. I was playing small. That is not how we were designed to be. The excellent and majestic Creator created us - God Himself, to live each day empowered to walk in an authority that He gave us. Therefore, we cannot play small. Never. No, not ever. In Genesis, it says we are created in His image. Thus, we have the abilities of our Father, our magnificent designer. Genesis 1:1 says:” In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.” The word creation has a root word that means “to bring forth.” We bring forth our purpose through words that ride on our actions.

I had been the caterpillar year after year. Then I went into my cocoon but never converted. I stayed in that dark enclosure, not receiving the vital external support, the required transformation, or any light. In total obscurity, I sat.

Caterpillars devour and cause damage in the real world. I was crawling through life, doing damage to my daily existence. I was squandering my time and talent as if there was not a reason

to do more. That was until my mother told me a great story of a hero in my life.

The butterfly came forth. My release from the chrysalis was epic. I heard an incredible family story, which led me to instant maturity – a significant wake-up call. The story was about the legacy of my uncle, who was selfless and brave. Yes, I became an adult. Not just in age but an adult in my daily actions, in my commitment to life and God's purpose for it.

But let us stay on this chrysalis for a moment. When the caterpillar is transforming into an adult, it is not just resting while in the chrysalis. It is quite the opposite. Change and movement are happening - even if you cannot see it. The wings are forming, the antennae are developing, and the butterfly's sucking mouth parts are being changed from the caterpillar's chewing mouthparts. You see, the caterpillar and the butterfly have two different agendas and purposes.

While I was in the chrysalis of life, I was changing and genuinely evolving in that dark place of transformation. The enzymes ate away my caterpillar existence so I, the butterfly, could soar.

As teenagers, puberty can be tough. For me, I was not too fond of it. My acne years were so horrifying; I could not wait until those days were over. But those moments have nothing on the puberty-like process of the caterpillar to butterfly metamorphosis. During the transition, the caterpillar is digested by its own enzymes that destroy it but leaves in place disks that

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help form the butterfly. Everything from the caterpillar that is not needed is dissolved. Gone. Before majoring in elementary education, I was a biology major so let me paint this picture. I love science. I especially love the study of animals and insects.

The caterpillar has sleeping cells like those of our human stem cells. They have hormones that make the enzymes release at the appropriate time. If the juvenile hormone were released before its proper timing, there would be no butterfly. So timing is critical. The juvenile hormone releases at the perfect point in time and triggers the metamorphosis to begin. This hormone helps the caterpillar stay alive until the cocoon or chrysalis stage started. At that stage, the caspase enzymes release and eats away everything except the imaginal disk inside that will be the formation of the butterfly. The cells rapidly divide and produce all the parts of the butterfly. The caterpillar has gone from a creeping crawling being to self-inflicted mush to becoming a stunning and beautifully winged aerial creation.

To understand better the connection, I want to go back and finish talking about my uncle, Mark Clark. The impact that he made on my life is still being manifested each day. It has been over 50 years since his death, well, 52 years now to be exact, and I am still having evolutionary moments of the sacrifice that he chose to make and the implications of that selfless decision. As I presume my purpose daily, I want a life as he had. I desired a vision as he possessed. He led a life where the most important thing was the most important thing. He was willing to die at the

BRIGITTE BROWN JACKSON

age of 22 for his truth. For his people. For his cause. He was ready to give everything to walk in his purpose for the civil rights of African Americans in the 1960s. That was not only brave and courageous, but it was dangerous. It was a battle that could cost him his life. And it did.

When I think of the instances that I misspent my time, my talent, and my treasure, it takes me to a place of remorse. Was his life worth more than the misappropriation of my giftedness?

I genuinely feel bad about not using my genius and energy and not using my incredible talent to fulfill my daily purpose. Here is the thing though, we can never go back and recollect the past moments. Once it is gone, it is gone. Poof. No more.

However, what I do have is the present. And I get to choose to live every day at the moment with endless possibilities. It is all a choice. So, I am selecting the living part. I mean living! There are no limits. The only limits reside in my daily expectations and intentions. Symbolically, I am the product of my uncle's self-inflicted enzymes that kept the imaginal discs intact. I am his butterfly. I soar because of him.

We have a tendency sometimes to limit ourselves. We tend to push reality aside and let the limiting beliefs take hold of the excellent execution engine that we call our minds. Most people tend to settle with the alright, the okay, the mediocre. However, you have an opportunity to live in a moment of powerful purpose. You have a chance to enjoy the now. You have an opportunity to push past the limitations.

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I fly like a butterfly. I produce as the butterfly. I am not eating everything in my sight as I did as the caterpillar, but I contribute to my environment.

The caterpillar's mission is to eat to survive; thus, it devours and destroys its environment. It lives as a pupa because it is immature and under-developed and not existing at its full potential and purpose. Its life is temporal. The temporary stage does not lend to the purpose of giving back.

I have a purpose! My purpose is to reproduce, to give back from the substance of who I am. My intention is more extensive than me. I call it my why. Why do I do what I do? Why am I here?

We all have a mission to reproduce. The New International Version Bible translation for Genesis 1:22 commands us to reproduce and multiply. It reads like this: ***God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it."*** The verse of scripture was not just about having children, but everything about us should be reproducing.

THE TRICHOTOMY

There is a trichotomy about us as human beings. We are body, soul, and spirit. In all three areas, we have the ability to replicate. Living day-to-day successfully is the duty of our soul realm. We experience the world through the seat of the soul. Our purpose resonates from the soul.

Our soul is comprised of our will, our intellect, our memory, our imagination, and our emotions. Most people call the soul the

seat of the will, emotions, and mind. For me, I break the mind into three distinct parts: intellect, imagination, and memory. Therefore, we will discuss these five components in this book rather than the three most people talk about.

When you truly understand this portion of yourself, you can truly walk in original purpose. In the chapters to come, we will delve more into these five areas of our soul because they strongly dictate our lives. But for right now, we will talk about your will.

God gave us a clear will. In the book *Spirit Life Training* by Timothy Jorgensen, he discusses this notion thoroughly - the threefold part of man and its relation to God. In his chapter on the soul's will, he talks about breaking the will. Jorgensen suggests that our will has raw decision-making power. He teaches that our will makes decisions that ultimately form us into who we are. Our will must be strong and disciplined. It must be shown how to say no and how to say yes. We will discuss this more in depth later in Chapter 4.

YOU CAN'T HIDE

As a young person, I remember being told in church services, you can run, but you cannot hide. That is not just an opinion; it is factual. It can be proven. You cannot run from the things destined for you. When I first became a principal, I absolutely loved it. However, it was not easy. I spent many days working tireless hours, sometimes to the neglect of my young children, who sat at the school with me for long periods, as a divorcee that

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was their plight while momma brought home the bacon. I was determined to be successful, so I would even work on the weekends because I did not want any child on my watch to fall through the cracks. To be honest with you, that weighed on me, and it took a toll — one of the levies being burnout. At the time, of course, I would never be fully transparent and admit to the burnout. No, I sure would not. I had my Superwoman cape on, and she was not going to admit powerlessness.

One day the pressure did take its toll. That day came like a tornado out of nowhere. I was frustrated and sitting on my living room sofa. I was burning myself out. I was tired beyond measure, and I decided enough was enough. I was going to go and do something different. I told myself - I quit. Well, you can run, but... Do you see where I am going? You cannot hide.

I had to laugh because I believe God has a perfect sense of humor. He has shown up in my life too many times with hysterical commissions. All I could do was laugh and say, okay, God. As I sat on my couch, tired, exasperated, and discouraged with a determined mind that it would be my last year in education, I had an awakening. At that very moment, I received a phone call from a former student. And what made this phone call very intriguing is that I do not know how to this day the student received my phone number. I had relocated to Ypsilanti, Michigan, from Flint, Michigan, and did not have the same phone number (back then, there was no carrying your phone number to a new city). She was an adult who just graduated from college, and I had been her

second-grade teacher many years prior. It was amazing that she called at this exact moment. I was about to be slapped across the face with a power pillar – PURPOSE!

We had small talk, and then she got into a deep conversation. She called to tell me that she was grateful and thankful because she had recently graduated and how I had *influenced* her life. She went on and on, giving me oral accolades as I sat with tears dropping like bombs into my lap. At first, I was never going to tell her what I was going through at that precise moment, then suddenly, like a floodgate, my mouth opened, and I just blurted out what my mind had been contemplating. When she heard my words, it was as if I had shot a canon into the open air. I could hear the disappointment in her voice even though her words did not express that at all. She did not begin to indulge me with niceties. She just simply said with firm persuasion, “Please, whatever you do, reconsider your thoughts. You are needed in education.” I stirred on the words all evening and into my dreams. I was still chewing on that conversation at the daybreak.

The following day after I got out of the car and walked into my school’s office, I did something that I would do every now and then. I began to do my mind dump. That was where I dumped everything that was worrying me or bothering me on a piece of paper. The paper included every unfulfilled task, promises to do things, incomplete decisions, unfinished assignments from home or work, and every worry on my heart. After mind dumping, I then developed an action plan. One of the main things that

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stood out was this statement to myself: “I will not continue to work in the manner in which I am working. I have a purpose but need to be clear on my vision and mission while on this road.” I believe this was the day that this book was etched into destiny. The Seven Power Pillars were evidenced in the days, weeks, months, years to come.

Burnout was true and real, and it needed to be in balance with my position. For even when I said that I was going to quit, I knew without a shadow of a doubt that this was my true assignment, not just a vocation. I am an ordained educator. Teaching is a natural God-given gift for me. It was effortless, and it was innate. It was in me. I teach and instruct in almost everything I do, sometimes even in casual conversations. But I knew I had to use my gift more effectively and efficiently as a leader. I needed to use this natural gift along with my intrinsic ability to encourage.

Back in my late twenties, when I became a licensed minister, I had all types of questions about God’s intent for my life. Out of curiosity, I took a measurement tool designed by Don and Katie Fortune. They co-authored a book, *Discover Your God-Given Gifts*. Without fail, every time, I came out as a compassion person and teacher over the other five God-given gifts of perceiver, exhorter, administrator, giver, and server.

This revelation opened my eyes to every assignment and every organization that I have worked for. With my gift of compassion, I have been a loving person, endearing, and

BRIGITTE BROWN JACKSON

sensitive to others. As a God-gifted teacher, my life has been focused on intellectual pursuits. My purpose is seen through these lenses; I walk out my purpose using those instinctive gifts.

When I think of the part of my narrative where I sat on the sofa and thought about quitting, I think about the Bible story of Jonah and the whale (or big fish). I knew I did not want to have a Jonah experience. I wanted to be obedient and walk in my true fulfillment. When you live in your purpose intentionally, it does not matter where you are running; you will always find yourself back at the doorstep called purpose.

To be quite honest and crystal clear, some people are not willing to be transparent. I hear people, especially those in leadership positions, say they cannot be open due to stigmas being placed on them or being judged for transparency. There is an unspoken expectation that you must always be on top of your game. But that is not true. That is a fallacy. It is so imperative for you to live in genuine transparency. The authentic you will get more accomplished than you know. So be true to yourself. Be you and only you. After all, no one can do it but you.

I left the life of being in a brick-and-mortar building, but I still teach and lead children and adults. I do it differently now. I use

“Never be limited by other people’s limited imagination.”

-Mae Jemison

my nonprofit to accomplish my purpose – the compassionate person and teacher. My true passions and giftedness are always with me, no matter what

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field or vocation I choose. I mention this because I grappled with leaving education as I knew it. It weighed on me because I loved it. My mind could not contemplate doing anything else. Once I realized that my purpose is caring for people and teaching them, it was easier to move on down the road. You see, your route can switch, but your true purpose and passion will stay in tack. Mine is helping people and being interactive. Mine is executing with enthusiasm and inspiration.

I currently work with career and entrepreneurial women, women-led nonprofits, and church organizations, helping them discover their genius and execute by walking out their perfect purpose. My primary clients are Christian career mothers who experience challenges and setbacks but always have hope and a growth mindset. I help them utilize their inherent talents to overcome any obstacles and identify and push past blind spots. That does not mean this book is not speaking to others. The lessons in this book can be transferred to any occupation, entrepreneur, and both genders. We all have been gifted; we retain a unique genius.

We possess behavior preferences or tendencies to accomplish the mission we have while here on earth. When we do not reflect on this, we end up in the maze trying to find our way through. I am reminded of this from the lesson learned from one of the first books I was gifted and that I read as a new principal, *Who Moved My Cheese* by Spencer Johnson. I can see myself holding the book and lying across my sofa, reading away

BRIGITTE BROWN JACKSON

in my mind's eye. Excited. I anticipated each page turn and finding out the ending. I read it in one quick reading. Then I went to put the lessons into immediate action. I was a new school leader, who with a promotion within 18 months, was supposed to have a new school – a new construction. I had been promised one thing, but a different thing was delivered. Oh, my cheese was moved. I had to adjust. To be honest with you, I do not like change at all. That is what made this book such a great gift for me. My cheese had fled my grasp.

If you have never read the book, it is a parable about two mice, Sniff and Scurry, and the two little people, Hem and Haw. They journey through a maze in search of cheese. They have unique outlooks on the journey and their relationship with change. Those of you that have read it know the power of the

“You don’t make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering, and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.”

-Shirley Chisholm

parable and how the cheese represented success and happiness. Hem and Haw, the little people, got comfortable and did not keep moving at one point in the maze, but the cheese was

moved and was gone unbeknownst to them. They did not like it. The lesson for them was change is inevitable, and be prepared for it; change is always going to come. Haw decided not to stay stuck, and so he kept moving after the cheese supply dried up. It was a fearful time, and Haw could have stayed paralyzed, but

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POWERFUL: GROW IN YOU & UNLOCK YOUR PURPOSE

he overcame and set off to find more cheese. He found it. The discovery of the new only came about because he moved. He went into action. While we are on the road of purpose, fear will always show up, the lack may reveal its ugly head, but we must use the lessons learned in the parable. When your cheese is moved, it does not render you immobile. Keep moving. Discover another way to live out your purpose and be self-aware of your power pillars needed to walk in your unique path: your prescribed destiny.

KEY TRAITS

Successful people have two dominant key traits. These people are self-aware, and they are genuine to themselves. They desire and pursue authenticity. Self-awareness is a critical component of emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence is just as important as cognitive intelligence.

At the beginning of my career, I was not very self-knowledgeable. I did just what I described earlier; I thought it would be less of myself to be open and honest, especially after one occasion at the beginning of my leadership career. I was open and truthful, which cost me being judged and others manipulating my transparency. My advice to you is that it does not matter what other people think - your peace, tranquility, and satisfaction are up to you. And the one thing you must do is be real with yourself. That is something, as well, that you cannot run from - the real you is in there inside that body and soul of yours.

BRIGITTE BROWN JACKSON

It would be best if you confronted the harsh facts. I love the book, *Good to Great* by Jim Collins; it uses a term I love, *brutal facts*. Now the brutal facts do not only apply to businesses, your job, or your occupation. It applies to your personal habits as well. Therefore, you can run, but you cannot hide from the truth. What are the brutal facts that you know about your purpose and your endless possibilities? Does your authenticity lend to the conducive environment for the great and the powerful?

One of my current coaches, Lisa Nichols, a phenomenal businesswoman, transformational powerhouse, and worldwide speaker, talks all the time about walking or living in endless possibility. Walking in determination is nothing to fear but is something that we all must accept and forge through. You see, when you have greatness in you and your destiny is ordained, decreed, and declared officially. Therefore, you will face obstacles on every hand. Pressures of life will try to press you out. Nevertheless, God has already provided you with the prescription.

When you are walking in honesty and holding the hand of hope, you can clearly be effective and efficient in your purpose.

Purpose is a word that we hear people use all the time. I have been using it throughout this chapter. Be that as it may, do we truly understand the fundamental nature of purpose? I think if we indeed did, we would be more intentional and thoughtful in our actions. Hence the phrase on the book cover, if you knew who you were, you would act accordingly. When you are in the space

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POWERFUL: GROW IN YOU & UNLOCK YOUR PURPOSE

of accomplishing your purpose no matter what, you are very passionate about what you do. Intentionality guides you effortlessly and smoothly.

Now mind you, that does not mean you are always passionate about what you do. I know that was an oxymoron. Here is the gist of that. You can be very passionate about something and not love it or like it. For instance, if you worked with battered women, you may not like what happens to the battered women or even what you do with someone in a battered relationship. However, you could be highly passionate about stopping domestic violence. So, we must live in purpose and on purpose.

When I first started on my education journey, one of the top people I loved to listen to was Jack Canfield. He is a legend in the professional development arena, creator of the Chicken Soup series, and author of the most recent book, *Success: Success to Help You Live a Happier, Healthier, and Wealthier Life*. You can very much say he was passionate and has lived in his true purpose. Jack talks a lot about living life and being in a good space.

Passion requires us to live in the day. As you read this today, what are you thinking about as it relates to your purpose? Are you conscientious about today? Or do you only see your purpose in tomorrow? Walking in purpose commands a presence in the now - this moment. Yes, this moment is just as crucial as the tomorrow moment.

NOW FAITH

As I said, purpose is in the now; we live for the moment at the moment. One of my favorite scriptures found in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews is, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Now! That is a great word. Now, gives us a reality of the day. It sounds urgent. Now, makes you want to move. Now, makes you execute and deliver.

When I hear of the word, I think of being a child and an adult asking me to do something now or a teacher giving me the command of reading it now. I do not know about you, but I was very obedient as a child, so if I was told to do it now, I did it now, not later. Now. No questions, just action.

What have you been charged to do - now?

Often people will focus on the past or the future and miss so many valuable now moments. Today is not concerned about yesterday, and today is not consumed with tomorrow. But now is minding the business of now. Now is progressing. Now is working. Now jumps up because it makes you want to move – now. Please do not take this out of context, though, and the past does have some bearings on our present situation; the future will definitely be determined by what we do today while we are in the now. However, as human beings, many of us spend more time focusing on that which is gone or that which is to be, rather than being in the moment and enjoying the wonderful gift of the present. Changing the small minute things in the moment is just as valuable. How are you using your present – a gift of the now?

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POWERFUL: GROW IN YOU & UNLOCK YOUR PURPOSE

One of my businesses includes an online culturally relevant website that houses published children’s books, curriculum, and materials for teachers and parents developed around Afrocentric themes. The ideal came to me years before its inception. As an urban school administrator, I was frustrated that the children I served were being underserved when it came to the curriculum and the history of African Americans. So much was lost and left out. Unrepresented. Untold. Now, I teach anyone willing to listen about the lesser-known personalities that helped shape “our” United States. I had a now moment and acted on it.

Thomas L. Jennings was a “now” type individual. He lived in his purpose, on purpose. He was about evoking change. He was a visionary. I write about him because, more than likely, you may not know about him. He was an inventor and entrepreneur in the early 19th century. Thomas worked for a highly respected tailor and later became a business owner at the tender age of nineteen years old.

Just so you do not overlook this, we are talking about a black man owning a business and being granted the first patent ever given to a man of African origin during the times of slavery. This happening was unheard of.

Jennings invented a dry scouring process for dry cleaning. That was remarkable considering the historical context and the atmosphere of the time. The most significant part of the story is not that he created a much-needed invention. Still, he gave some of the proceeds to support the movement of abolition, including

BRIGITTE BROWN JACKSON

the purchase of his own family members' freedom. That was Jennings' purpose – no doubt. His life was marked by the words on his epitaph: Defender of Human Rights. According to Jerry Mikprenda, in his blog, *A Bold Man of Color: Thomas Jennings and the Proceeds of His Patents*, says that Frederick Douglass described Jennings as: “a bold man of color” who led “an active, earnest, and blameless life.”

Furthermore, Jennings became so influential that he did other acts of servitude that were trailblazing and monumental. For example, someone illegally used his dry scouring invention; he sued and won. He won when black men did not even hold their own patents, and being a black man was an everyday challenge. Patents sometimes were placed in the name of the slave owner. Jennings being a free man, owned his patent outright and was able to show the patent papers that John Quincy Adams signed.

On another occasion, he hired a lawyer when his daughter, Elizabeth, a schoolteacher, was removed from public transportation (horse-drawn streetcar) in New York, New York, in 1854. Once again, unheard of - unprecedented. You may know the young lawyer that aided them because he later became the 21st president of the United States. It was Chester A. Arthur. Jennings helped form a group called The Legal Rights Association to support and help other blacks with civil rights matters. They won. So, while we have all learned of Rosa Parks, have you ever

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been taught about the Jennings family? You should have. But that is a conversation for another time and another book.

All these incredible exploits occurred because Jennings moved. He was in his now. He never allowed the fact that slavery prohibited so many things for people of his ethnic group. It did not hinder him. Excuses did not stop the action, the zeal, or the drive. Jennings pressed pass the past; he saw what was needed in the moment.

NINETY DAYS

Some may see 90 days as a short period of time, while others may see 90 days as a long period. When I think of purpose, I think in 90 days spans. Why am I talking about 90 days, and I just said live in the now. That is because my now took me 90 days out.

Let me unpack that. When I started my business and really took it seriously, I was able to accomplish in 90 days more than I had done in two decades in my career. And yes, I said two decades. Twenty years. When I discovered how to take my purpose to an all-time high, it began not just affecting my now, but it carried into my future. I became more methodical in my day-to-day living. My now.

Every day became more purposeful. Therefore, the residual effects moved and traveled into my future. One of my favorite things that I like to quote is “intolerance of the present schedules your future.” I am now very clear and very purposeful of my today - of my now. There is no mismanagement of my efforts, no

BRIGITTE BROWN JACKSON

wasting time because every moment matters. I did enough of that in my past, which I cannot go back and turn the hands of time, but what I do get to do every day is - live in my authentic purpose.

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POWERFUL: GROW IN YOU & UNLOCK YOUR PURPOSE

But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.
Exodus 9:16

Powerful Takeaway Thoughts!

1. There are three types of people regarding awareness: aware, partially aware, and not aware.
2. Know and embrace your ordained assignment in life.
3. Be driven by your authenticity.
4. All individuals will experience metamorphosis at some point in life. Never compromise your purpose; integrity is everything.
5. Do not waste time. Live in the abundance of now.
6. Our soul commands our will, emotions, and mind (intellect, imagination, and memory).
7. Remember, God knows the thoughts He thinks toward you. Thoughts of peace and an expected end. Your PURPOSE!



Powerful Purpose Action Steps

1. Identify your innate strengths or genius.
2. Be unmovable. If you do not have a vision or mission statement, write it. (We will help you more in Chapters 2 and 3 with enhancing upon it.)
3. Count the cost. What is the greatest hindrance to you being your authentic self? Mind dump everything that you can think about purpose – include inspirations and fears. You will use this to help with the action steps in Chapter 4.

Get you copy on Amazon at:
<https://bit.ly/PowerfulGrowInYouUnlockYourPurpose>

BE YOU!

“

Do what comes naturally for you. When you walk in your true calling and purpose things will be at your disposal. When an eagle is in the air it does what is natural, it flies. When a whale is in water, it swims. Both animals are geniuses when they are in their true habitat. You will never see a whale in the air or an eagle swimming underwater. It is unnatural. They stay true to their own PURPOSE and habitat.”

- Brigitte Jackson

READY. SET. ACTION



**Simple and easy are not the same.
– Brigitte Jackson**

READY. SET. ACTION

Simple and easy are not the same. Put simple principles into place, it may not be easy, but you can do it. These Seven Power Pillars are robust. Had I put them in my life earlier, it would not have cost me some of the things it cost me. My productivity struggled. I would have never endured thoughts of sabotaging my future self. I would have better aligned myself and not misallocated time and blundered in a lack of clarity. The possession of low morale would have never been in my existence. Most of all, I would have been authentically me.

The Seven Power Pillars gave me solutions to my problem. Today I am a problem solver. Today I stand in my giftedness of moving people. I help diagnose and solve human capital problems by offering incredible experiences of transformation. The Seven Power Pillars were my personal road map to my success today, and it could be your road map for your success as well. In the words of my 7-year-old grandson, excuses do not make sense. So Execute.

What would you do if you were not afraid?

Every good and perfect gift is from above and coming from the Father of lights. There is absolutely nothing that you cannot do that is within your power to do. You have been gifted with talents, but you have created blind spots. Identify those constraints, be conscientious of those, and eradicate those constraints.

If you think about a blind spot when you are driving a car, you know it is there, but new technologies have been developed to help us see the blind spots and reduce car accidents. If you are so blessed to have a vehicle built in a particular year, then more than likely, some flashers have been put on your driver and passenger side window mirrors to detect blind spots. Do you know someone invented that? They had the solution to someone's problem. I would dare to say - my problem, your problem. What problem do you solve?

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POWERFUL: GROW IN YOU & UNLOCK YOUR PURPOSE

Be very mindful of your purpose because when you are self-aware, you will have more success. Your communication skills improve exponentially, leading you to live in abundance. Take Action Today.

Exponential EduVentures offers psychometric assessments (behavior and aptitude profiles) to help you maximize your value to yourself and others. You learn about how you tend to behave, why you think and act the way you do, and what balances you. We assist you in perfecting the perfect you. Most people do not have a problem gaining knowledge, but many do with applying the knowledge strategically. Use your self-knowledge along with the Seven Power Pillars to enjoy the life that you were destined to live out abundantly.

Contact Exponential EduVentures today if you are interested in your group receiving in-person or online training, virtual coaching support, or having Brigitte speak at your event.

Go to: <https://brigittebrownjackson.com/contact>.

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BRIGITTE BROWN JACKSON

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brigitte Jackson, Ed. S, an accomplished leadership strategist, and motivational speaker, founded Exponential EduVentures, a professional development firm that serves individual clients and organizations. Leading multi-million-dollar organizations since 2005, Brigitte has personally managed hundreds of people. As a consultant, she has trained various groups on leadership, self-esteem, resilience, group dynamics, teamwork, accountability, and communication skills for the past two decades. Brigitte is a certified Extreme Execution Coach, Innermetrix DISC consultant, and licensed minister. She is married to Willie Don Jackson, III. They have eight children and ten grandchildren and currently reside in Michigan.

Brigitte is the podcast host of, Powerful, available on Apple podcasts, Amazon Music, iHeart Radio, and where you listen to your podcast. You can also listen at <https://brigittebrownjackson.com/podcast>.

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